

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:		SITE NO.:	
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL
			POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Town Farms Inn Historic: Thomas G. Mather House; Town Farm
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Silver Street; north side, corner of River Road
4. OWNER(S): Town Farms Inn, Inc. PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Resturant Historic: Almshouse; residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain Dining quarters no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire (addition) Federal (orig. section); DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1891 (addition) c.1835 (orig. section);

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding | <input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> board & batten | <input type="checkbox"/> stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding | <input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | | <u>foundation</u> |

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
- wood frame; post and beam balloon
- load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
- other: _____

10. ROOF: type: (orig.) gable flat (orig.) mansard monitor sawtooth
- gambrel shed hip round other _____
- material: (add.)
- (orig.) wood shingle roll asphalt tin (orig.) slate
- asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2, 3 (add.) APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 88'x51'

12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
- Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
- Alterations: no yes, explain: See #18; one-story rear ell added

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
- barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: _____
- carriage house shop garden _____

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
- open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
- commercial industrial rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Town Farms Inn faces the intersection of Silver Street and River Road. From here, Silver Street ascends to the Connecticut Valley Hospital. The Connecticut River is close by beyond River Road and the railroad tracks, north. This, the last structure on Silver Street, stands alone in a rural setting approximately two miles from the city's commercial center.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This structure has two, large sections of different styles. The earliest part was built as a residence for Thomas G. Mather between 1835 and 1839, a later date than its Federal style implies. The five-bay facade has a central entrance. Two pairs of chimneys are on either end of the gabled roof and mutules are exhibited beneath the cornice. In 1853, Mather sold the building to the town of Middletown, which used the premises to house the city's poor, terminating the use of the city's first Almshouse (53 Warwick Street). Its occupants also worked the farm which adjoined the structure. During the city's ownership, a plainly styled, two-story rear wing was added to the rear of the original section around 1870. The large three-story addition was erected to the side in 1890 or '91. This latter section has a mansard roof reminiscent of the Second Empire style. It displays plainly decorated dormers and slender brackets beneath the eaves. The City of Middletown sold the property in 1946. The building was later converted to a restaurant and has since been utilized for this purpose. This distinctive structure is an interesting unification of two divergent styles. The mansard roofed addition is more simplistically decorated and was built at a much later date (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 53, #27-27A



COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 12/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; David Ransom, "Town Farms Inn", National Register Nomination (1978)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- none known
- highways
- vandalism
- developers
- other: _____
- renewal
- private
- deterioration
- zoning
- explanation: _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 18 Date: 12/78

Town Farms
Silver Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

#18

than most of its contemporaries. Like the earlier Federal section, it has smooth brownstone sills and lintels, and a fanlight above the entrance. These features combined with its sparse detail, make the addition compatible with the original Federal section.